



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JULY 21, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
BELTON, KC MEN SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Antonio Barragan**, 24, of Belton, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On April 8, 2004, **Barragan** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Barragan** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger .38-caliber revolver on May 28, 2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Barragan** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for burglary and robbery.

Barragan was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 4, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Belton, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **John R. Landers**, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to three years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On April 4, 2004, **Landers** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Landers** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm pistol on Oct. 22,

2003. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition. **Landers** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for manufacturing methamphetamine.

Landers was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 17, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. The case was investigated by the Warrensburg, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow